

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02 COME-00

DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSF-04 NSC-10

NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SCI-06 SS-15 SCEM-02 H-03 PA-03

PRS-01 USIA-15 FMC-04 RSR-01 /163 W

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, CA, US

SUBJECT: ARCTIC PIPELINES

1. FOLLOWING IS UNEDITED TRANSCRIPT FROM HOUSE OF
COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD JULY 26 DEALING WITH OIL
PIPELINES.

BEGIN QUOTE

MR. DONALD W. MUNRO (ESQUIMALT-SAANICH):
MR. SPEAKER, MY QUESTION IS ADDRESSED TO THE ACTING
PRIME MINISTER. IN THE LIGHT OF A STATEMENT MADE
YESTERDAY CONCERNING STUDIES WHICH SHOW THAT CHERRY
POINT REFINERY CAN AND SHOULD BE SUPPLIED FROM INLAND,
CAN THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER TELL THE HOUSE WHY THE
ENERGY ADVISER AT THE CANADIAN EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON
HAS CONSISTENTLY DISMISSED SUGGESTIONS THAT CANADA
CAN GUARANTEE INCREASED OIL DELIVERIES TO WASHINGTON
OVER THE INLAND ROUTE?

HON. MITCHELL SHARP (ACTING PRIME MINISTER): I
CANNOT SPEAK FOR THE OIL ADVISER TO THE GOVERNMENT IN
WASHINGTON. I DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THAT IS WHAT HE SAID
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OR NOT.

MR. MONRO: IN THAT CASE, MR. SPEAKER, COULD THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER TAKE A POSITIVE COURSE AND ASSURE THE HOUSE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOW SUPPLY THE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON, FOR TRANSMISSION TO BOTH THE EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE BRANCHES OF THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, WITH ALL STUDIES OF CANADA'S CAPABILITY OF SUPPLYING THE CHERRY POINT REFINERY WITH INLAND OIL, AND THAT THESE STUDIES WILL ALSO BE TABLED IN THE HOUSE HERE IN OTTAWA?

HON. MITCHELL SHARP (ACTING PRIME MINISTER):
MR. SPEAKER, AS I SAID YESTERDAY, NOW THAT IT APPEARS AS IF THE TAPS LINE IS GOING TO BE BUILT, IT BECOMES NECESSARY, IF WE ARE GOING TO CARRY OUT OUR UNDERTAKING TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO PROTECT THE INNER WATERS OF THE STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUC, THAT WE SHOULD BE HAVING NEGOTIATIONS OF THIS KIND. I DO NOW SAY TO THE HON. MEMBER, AS I SAID YESTERDAY TO HON. MEMBERS, THAT THESE WILL BE NEGOTIATIONS AND, THEREFORE, I DO NOT THINK I WOULD WANT TO REVEAL ALL THE CARDS THAT WE ARE HOLDING AT THIS TIME.

MR. MONRO: MAY I ASK ONE FURTHER SUPPLEMENTARY? WILL THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER ASSURE THE HOUSE THAT EVERY DEVICE WILL BE USED, INCLUDING REFERENCE TO THE IJC, TO PREVENT OIL SHIPMENTS ENTERING THE STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA BEING INCREASED?

MR. SHARP: I THINK THE HOUSE OF COMMONS HAS PERHAPS FORGOTTEN THAT THIS WAS A SUGGESTION MADE BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT IN JUNE, 1972. A UNANIMOUS RESOLUTION WAS APPROVED BY THIS HOUSE OF COMMONS ENDORSING THE GOVERNMENT'S VIEW. THIS WAS REJECTED BY THE UNITED STATES.

MR. T.C. DOUGLAS (NANAIMO-COWICHAN-THE ISLANDS):
MR. SPEAKER, MAY I DIRECT A SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER. HAS THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT AT ANY TIME TRANSMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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OUR WILLINGNESS TO MAKE SOME ARRANGEMENTS TO SUPPLY CHERRY POINT WITH CANADIAN CRUDE IN RETURN FOR AN ASSURANCE THAT LARGE TANKERS WILL NOT ENTER THE STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA AND, IF SO, BY WHICH MINISTER IN THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT WAS SUCH AN OFFER COMMUNICATED TO THE UNITED STATES?

MR. SHARP: MR. SPEAKER? IT WAS COMMUNICATED TO

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS THAT THIS WAS A POSSIBILITY THAT WAS OPEN IN THE EVENT THAT THE TAPS LINE WAS APPROVED. AS I HAVE SAID ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS, WE ARE NOT OPPOSED TO THE TAPS LINE AS SUCH ACROSS ALASKA AND CARRYING OIL DOWN TO CALIFORNIA. ALL OUR SUBMISSIONS TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAVE BEEN ON THE UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS OF BIG TANKERS MOVING INTO THE STRAIT OF JUAN DE FUCA.

MR. DOUGLAS: MR. SPEAKER, IN VIEW OF THE MINISTER'S STATEMENT THAT THIS INFORMATION HAS BEEN CONVEYED TO THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON A NUMBER OF OCCASIONS, WOULD HE BE PREPARED TO HAVE THE CORRESPONDENCE TABLED, FROM WHATEVER MINISTER MADE THIS OFFER TO THE U.S. GOVERNMENT, SO WE WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE WHAT THE NATURE OF THAT COMMUNICATION WAS?

MR. SHARP: MR. SPEAKER, I DID NOT SAY THAT WE HAD MADE ANY OFFERS OF THAT KIND IN WRITING, AND I THINK IT WOULD HAVE BEEN MOST UNDESIRABLE TO HAVE DONE SO AT THAT TIME. WHAT I DID SAY WAS THAT THIS WAS A POSSIBILITY WE HAD DISCUSSED GENERALLY WITH THE UNITED STATES. I THINK I SHOULD ALSO SAY TO THE HON. MEMBER THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS RESISTED ALL OF THESE PROPOSALS WE HAVE MADE IN THE PAST SIMPLY BECAUSE THE ADMINISTRATION WAS ABSOLUTELY COMMITTED TO PROCEEDING WITH THE TAPS LINE AND DID NOT WANT ANY STUDIES OR DISCUSSIONS GOING ON THAT MIGHT HAVE THROWN ANY DOUBT UPON IT. THAT IS THE TRUTH.

HON. ROBERT L. STANFIELD (LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION):
MR. SPEAKER, I HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE ACTING PRIME MINISTER WITH REFERENCE TO THE GROUP WHICH HE SAID
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YESTERDAY HAD BEEN SET UP SOMETIME AGO, AND WHICH THE DAY BEFORE YESTERDAY HE INDICATED WAS ABOUT TO BE SET UP, TO EXAMINE THE ENVIRONMENTAL DIFFICULTIES AND RECOMMEND MEASURES TO OFFSET THESE. HOW LONG HAS THIS GROUP ACTUALLY BEEN AT WORK AND WHEN MAY WE EXPECT SOME WORD AS TO WHAT IT IS UP TO?

MR. SHARP: MR. SPEAKER, AFTER THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES TURNED DOWN THE CANADIAN PROPOSAL THAT THIS QUESTION SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE IJC, MY COLLEAGUE, THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AND MR. TRAIN GOT TOGETHER TO DISCUSS THIS QUESTION. THEY HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF DISCUSSIONS WHICH HAVE DEALT WITH OIL SPILL EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS, MEANS FOR IMPROVING NAVIGATION CONDITIONS, POSSIBLE JOINT SCIENTIFIC

STUDIES OF THE INNER WATERS AND QUESTIONS RELATING TO
LEGAL LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION. THESE TALKS HAVE
BEEN GOING ON CONTINUOUSLY SINCE THAT TIME.
END OF QUOTE.
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